Lexington County
Cancer Profile

March 2021

What Is Cancer?

Cancer is not one disease, but a group of diseases. For example, lung cancer is a completely different disease than colorectal cancer. All cancers have one thing in common, they can grow and spread uncontrollably if not diagnosed at an early stage and properly treated.

Cancer is caused by many things, like smoking, poor diet, and/or family history. The greatest risk factor for any cancer is increasing age. The risk of getting cancer increases with age. The risk of developing cancer differs for men and women. In the United States, one out of two men and one out of three women will have cancer in his or her lifetime.

What Is Cancer Incidence?

Cancer *incidence* is a measure of how many *new cancer cases* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *incidence rate* tells how many cancers were diagnosed per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer incidence rate of 400 means that for every 100,000 people, 400 were diagnosed with cancer).

Incidence rates can be *age-adjusted*, meaning that the age structure of the population is taken into account when rates are calculated. Adjusting for age allows us to compare rates by removing differences in the age structure among different populations. Incidence rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

What Is Cancer Mortality?

Cancer *mortality* is a measure of how many *cancer deaths* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *mortality rate* tells how many people died from cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer mortality rate of 150 means that for every 100,000 people in the population, 150 died from cancer).

Cancer mortality rates can also be *age-adjusted*, taking into account the age structure of the population. Mortality rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Impact of Cancer: US, SC, and SC County

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 1,898,160 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2021. This translates to 5,200 new diagnoses each day. Furthermore, an estimated 608,570 people in the United States are expected to die from cancer in 2021.

In South Carolina, ACS estimates 33,030 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2021 or over 90 new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while an estimated 10,940 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2021. The four most common cancers in SC are cancers of the lung, breast (female), prostate, and colon/rectum. The four leading cancer causes of death in SC are lung, colon/rectum, breast (female), and pancreas.

Tables 1 through 4 below show the number of new cancer cases and deaths for Lexington County, including age-adjusted rates for cancers in the county and for the state of SC. The last column in each table shows how the county ranks in comparison to the other 45 SC counties. A rank of 1 means that a county has the highest rate of any county, while a rank of 46 means that a county has the lowest rate of any SC county. *At this time, the most recent cancer statistics for South Carolina and the United States are for new cases diagnosed in 2018. Deaths occurring in 2018 are also used.*

Table 1 shows 5-year cancer incidence data for Lexington County and SC for all cancers by sex and race, including Lexington County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 1. Cancer Incidence by Sex and Race, 2014-2018, Lexington County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lexington County		
	5-year rate	5-year rate	new cases*	SC rank
all	450	449	1515	25
male	503	487	759	31
female	411	423	756	15
white	452	450	1324	26
black	441	466	166	12

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Source: SC Central Cancer Registry. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 2 shows 5-year cancer mortality data for Lexington County and SC for all cancers by sex and race, including Lexington County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 2. Cancer Mortality by Sex and Race, 2014-2018, Lexington County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lexington County		
	5-year rate	5-year rate	lives lost*	SC rank
all	165	154	511	42
male	203	189	275	40
female	137	128	236	40
white	160	154	455	37
black	185	166	53	41

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry and SC Vital Records. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 3 shows 5-year cancer incidence data for Lexington County and SC for selected cancers, including Lexington County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 3. Cancer Incidence for Selected Cancers, 2014-2018, Lexington County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lexington County		
cancer	5-year rate	5-year rate	new cases*	SC rank
breast (female)	130	131	234	16
prostate (male)	113	94	160	43
lung/ bronchus	63	64	220	32
colon/ rectum	38	36	119	36
pancreas	14	14	47	26

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Source: SC Central Cancer Registry. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 4 shows 5-year cancer mortality data for Lexington County and SC for selected cancers, including Lexington County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 4. Cancer Mortality for Selected Cancers, 2014-2018, Lexington County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lexington County		
cancer	5-year rate	5-year rate	lives lost*	SC rank
breast (female)	22	20	36	32
prostate (male)	22	17	21	37
lung/ bronchus	43	39	133	39
colon/ rectum	14	13	41	41
pancreas	11	11	36	34

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry and SC Vital Records. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 5 shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in Lexington County and SC. Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life.

Table 5. All Cancers by Stage of Diagnosis, 2014-2018, Lexington County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lexington County
	Percent of all cancers	Percent of all cancers
Early Stage	48.4	47.1
Late Stage	40.2	43.0
Unknown Stage	11.3	9.9

*Percents (proportions) shown are (rounded) based on 5 years of data. Statistics include *in situ* cancers.
Source: SC Central Cancer Registry.

Breast Cancer in Lexington County

Among women, breast cancer was the number 1 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 2 leading cause of cancer death from 2014-2018. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 234 new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and 36 deaths from this disease.

Prostate Cancer in Lexington County

Among men, prostate cancer was the number 1 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 2 leading cause of cancer death from 2014-2018. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 160 new prostate cancer cases diagnosed and 21 deaths from this disease.

Lung Cancer in Lexington County

Lung Cancer was the number 2 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 1 leading cause of cancer death from 2014-2018. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 220 new lung cancer cases diagnosed and 133 deaths from this disease.

Colorectal Cancer in Lexington County

Colorectal cancer was the number 4 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 2 leading cause of cancer death from 2014-2018. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 119 new colorectal cancer cases diagnosed and 41 deaths from this disease.

Pancreatic Cancer in Lexington County

Pancreatic cancer was the number 9 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 4 leading cause of cancer death from 2014-2018. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 47 new pancreatic cancer cases diagnosed and 36 deaths from this disease.

Screening

Men and women should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk.

The Best Chance Network (BCN) provides breast cancer screenings (ages 30-64) and cervical cancer screenings (ages 21-64) for women with incomes at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, screening thousands of women each year. For more information see: http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/FreeCancerScreenings/

Notes: Data are subject to change as data sets are updated. Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. The following suppression rules may have been applied to the data in the text and tables above: counts of 1-4 are recorded as less than 5; counts of 5-9 are rounded to 10. Rates based on counts fewer than 16 are suppressed (~).

Resources

SC Central Cancer Registry (DHEC)
https://www.scdhec.gov/CancerRegistry
American Cancer Society
http://www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/
CDC National Program of Cancer Registries
United States Cancer Statistics
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DHEC)
http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/
Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control (DHEC)
http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/TobaccoCessation/
SC Cancer Alliance
http://www.sccanceralliance.org/